

*LIMOSA BELGICA.

There were many Black-tailed Godwits on the shores of the Étang Le Taute on the 23rd of September. The species is of double passage in the region.

NUMENIUS ARQUATA.

The Curlew is a bird of double passage in the Camargue, and was common during the period covered by our visit. Jaubert and Barthélemy-Lapommeraye say (p. 473) that a few nest in the Camargue; but although we saw a number on the shores of the Golfe de Fos on the 30th of May, 1894, we had no suspicion that the species was breeding in the Delta that season.

XLII.—*On the Dates of Temminck and Laugier's 'Planches coloriées.'* By C. DAVIES SHERBORN.

IN 'The Ibis' for 1868 (p. 500) Mr. G. R. Crotch gave a list of the dates of the livraisons of Temminck and Laugier's 'Nouveau Recueil des Planches coloriées d'Oiseaux.' Information, then unknown, has since come to my hand, and Professor Newton has recently acquired an unbound copy of the work, with several of the original wrappers preserved. These wrappers, of which there were four separate issues, and which are usually dated "182-," have furnished valuable facts, and have largely assisted this revised compilation. Férussac's 'Bulletin général' (1823), and its continuation, the 'Bulletin des Sciences Naturelles et de Géologie' (1824-31), provide much of the matter upon which the present statement is prepared, and this in its turn is supplemented by the Donation Book of the Linnean Society of London, which has so frequently been of service in my bibliographic enquiries.

The accuracy of the present determinations up to and including livraison 55 is proved in a curious manner by a footnote in Férussac, Bull. ii. (1824) p. 293, where the reviewer, Jean René Constantin Quoy, notes the date of the livraison containing the new generic word *Megapodius*

as Aug. 1823. Now in Férussac, Bull. i. (1824) pp. 87 & 178, iv. (1825) p. 125, and v. (1825) p. 127, are four reviews, in each of which Quoy remarks upon the wonderful regularity in the publication of the livraisons, which came out month by month. Having therefore the exact date of the use of the word *Megapodius* in this book, we know that of livraison 37 in which *Megapodius* first appeared; and, knowing that, we can fix with absolute certainty the date of the first 37 livraisons. Moreover, the regularity of publication is still remarked upon in the last review quoted, and this takes our certain dates up to livraison 55. After 55 we have no further definite information beyond Férussac's Bulletin, which corroborates Crotch's list so far as the years are concerned; and there appears no reason to doubt that Crotch's list for the remaining livraisons is correct, with the one exception of livraison 75, which was received at the Linnean Society's Library in 1827, and should, therefore, be so dated.

An interesting fact which, though evidence of course to the original subscribers, had been overlooked by and unknown to later ornithologists is mentioned by Quoy in his first notice of the work (Bull. général, 1823, iv. p. 207), who states as follows:—"Les deux éditeurs . . . ne s'étaient d'abord engagés qu'à fournir six planches coloriées par mois; mais, depuis, ils ont ajouté plusieurs feuilles de texte à chaque livraison." With this change the price of the livraison was also raised, from 9 francs for the 4to and 12 francs for the folio issue, to 10 francs 50 c. and 15 francs respectively, while a paragraph was added to the notice on the wrappers, beginning—"Les Souscripteurs qui possèdent les vingt premières Livraisons qui désireront en acquérir le texte . . ." At first, therefore, there was no text; it was not until livraison 21 that text appeared, and then all that for livraisons 1-20 and 21 appeared at once. After livraison 21 text and plates appeared together. This statement will be found in Férussac, Bull. i. (1824) p. 179, and on the back of the original wrappers preserved in Professor Newton's copy (*e. g.* livr. 26), thus:—"Les Souscripteurs qui possèdent

les vingt premières Livraisons et qui désireront en acquérir le texte, qui s'imprime dans ce moment, le recevront séparément et successivement à raison de 1 fr. 50 c. la livraison in-quarto et 3 fr. l'in-folio." The original publishers were Dufour and d'Ocagne, of Paris and Amsterdam, but latterly Levrault appeared as the bookseller at Paris.

The reason given by Quoy for the issue of a text is so quaint that it is here reproduced:—"C'est à dater de la vingt-et-unième livraison que les auteurs ont commencé à fournir un texte à chacune des livraisons, en y comprenant celles qui ont déjà paru. Ils s'étaient abstenus de la faire jusqu'ici, dans la crainte d'augmenter le prix de l'ouvrage, et surtout dans celle d'écrire après Buffon. Ils s'y sont déterminés parce que les douanes étrangères rejetaient une collection de gravures sans texte, qu'elles considéraient plutôt comme le produit des arts et de l'industrie en France, que comme un ouvrage scientifique destiné à parcourir toute l'Europe" (Férussac, Bulletin, i. [2] 1824, p. 179).

That Quoy was able to quote the generic and specific names of the birds in his early reviews is due to the fact that in the early livraisons the list of contents was printed on the back of the wrapper (Professor Newton has livr. 13 and 20). This may serve as an example:—

Treizième Livraison.

Pl. 73. Autour tyran (adulte).—*Falco tyrannus*. (Pee. de Neuw.) Brazil.

Pl. 74. Hibou ketupa (mâle).—*Strix Ceylonensis*. (Lath.) Java, Ceylan et Bengale.

Pl. 75. Colin Sonnini (mâle).—*Perdix Sonnini*. (Temm.) Guiane.

Pl. 76. Brève thorachique (mâle). *Pitta thoracica*. (Temm.) Java.

Pl. 77. Fig. 1. Pie-grièche à casque (mâle).—*Lanius frontatus*. (Lath.) Nouvelle-Hollande.

Fig. 2. *Id. id.* (femelle).—*Lanius id. id.*

Pl. 78. Fig. 1. *Pardalote pointillé* (mâle).—*Pardalotus punctatus**. (Vieill.) Nouvelle-Hollande.

Fig. 2. *Id.* (femelle).—*Pardalotus id. id.*

* C'est *Pipra punctata*. Lath. Suppl. Ind. Orn. v. 2, p. lvi. sp. 1.

The nomenclature, therefore, should date as given in the following list. The text itself was by Temminck, not Laugier.

The following is a list of the livraisons (each containing six plates), with their dates of issue: the text for livraisons 1-20 came out with livraison 21:—

1. Aug. 1820.	✓ 35. June 1823.	69. Oct. 1826.
2. Sept. "	36. July "	70. Dec. "
3. Oct. "	37. Aug. "	71. Feb. 1827.
4. Nov. "	38. Sept. "	72. April "
5. Dec. "	39. Oct. "	73. July "
6. Jan. 1821.	40. Nov. "	74. Sept. "
7. Feb. "	41. Dec. "	*75. Jan. 1828 [1827]
8. Mar. "	42. Jan. 1824.	76. Mar. "
9. April "	43. Feb. "	77. April "
10. May "	44. Mar. "	78. July "
11. June "	45. April "	79. Aug. 1829.
12. July "	✓ 46. May "	80. Sept. "
13. Aug. "	47. June "	81. Oct. "
14. Sept. "	48. July "	82. Jan. 1830.
15. Oct. "	49. Aug. "	83. Feb. "
16. Nov. "	50. Sept. "	84. May "
17. Dec. "	51. Oct. "	85. July "
18. Jan. 1822.	52. Nov. "	86. Sept. "
19. Feb. "	53. Dec. "	87. Jan. 1831.
20. Mar. "	54. Jan. 1825.	88. May "
21. April "	55. Feb. "	89. Feb. 1832.
22. May "	56. Mar. "	90. July "
23. June "	57. April "	91. Dec. "
24. July "	58. May "	92. July 1834.
25. Aug. "	59. June "	93. }
26. Sept. "	60. July "	94. }
27. Oct. "	61. Aug. "	95. }
28. Nov. "	62. Sept. "	96. } 1835.
29. Dec. "	† 63. Nov. "	97. }
30. Jan. 1823.	64. Dec. "	98. }
31. Feb. "	65. May 1826.	99. }
32. Mar. "	66. June "	100. { 1836.
33. April "	67. July "	101. }
34. May "	68. Sept. "	102. Jan. 1839.

* Linnean Society's Donation Book says 1827.

† From livr. 63 Crotch's dates are given, and these we may accept with the sole exception of livr. 75.